

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
AND SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

September 1, 2015

Los Angeles County and most of the western United States are mired in a devastating drought that has dragged on for more than four years. In response, California recently imposed significant water reduction targets on both urban and agricultural water users in an effort to conserve as much as possible. Despite this unprecedented conservation effort, more must be done to ensure California has a sufficient water supply—California’s survival depends on it. Indeed, the economic implications of the drought are significant. A recent UC Davis study suggests that the drought has cost California approximately \$2.7 billion this year. The economic losses of \$2.7 billion are equivalent to about 5 percent of annual agricultural production, and about one-tenth of 1 percent of California’s total annual economic output.

With only about an inch of precipitation a year, the State of Israel shares California’s need for water solutions. Israel responded with aggressive, cutting-edge water conservation, reclamation and management solutions, including water recycling, conservation and desalination. From 2007-2013, the export of Israeli water technology grew 170%, reaching \$2 billion. In 2012, Israel had 280 water technology companies, 150 of which were exporters. Decades of innovative measures have succeeded in maintaining total water consumption levels at 1964 levels even though Israel’s population has quadrupled. These measures have also made Israel completely water-independent since 2014, despite little rainfall that year.

Los Angeles County has much to learn from Israel’s experience combatting drought.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisor adopt the attached resolution.

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MDA:lgc

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KUEHL	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Water Works Districts supplies water to approximately 240,000 people; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Flood Control District oversees water delivery, storage, and recycling infrastructure covering more than 3,000 square miles, including 500 miles of open channel, 2,800 miles of underground storm drain, and an estimated 120,000 catch basins; and

WHEREAS Los Angeles County and the State of Israel can learn from each other in the areas of water conservation and management; and

WHEREAS Los Angeles County and the State of Israel seek to expand their level of cooperation in, but not limited to, water conservation, water reclamation and management, and innovative technology, research and development.

THEREFORE, IT IS DECLARED AS FOLLOWS:

Los Angeles County and the State of Israel hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing a formal relationship that fosters the exchange of research and information, facilitates joint developments, and enhances relationships and opportunities to incubate solutions to the water crisis.

To achieve these aims, Los Angeles County and the State of Israel:

1. Will convene interagency working groups to exchange ideas and information and coordinate initiatives.
2. Plan to facilitate collaborations between public institutions and private entrepreneurs in the field of water conservation, reclamation and management.
3. Intend to support and encourage their people to further develop relationships and exchanges by encouraging ad hoc task forces, delegations and professional exchanges between Israel and the County in

key sectors including, but not limited to water conservation, reclamation and management.

4. Intend to support and encourage the creation of public-private partnerships between County and Israeli entities in the areas of water conservation, reclamation and management, or academic research.

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The foregoing resolution was adopted on the 1st day of September, 2015, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles.



PATRICK OGAWA  
Acting Executive Officer of the  
Board of Supervisors of the  
County of Los Angeles

By

Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM

MARY WICKHAM  
Interim County Counsel

By

Deputy